

LIGHT IN THE FACT.

By Dick Donovan.

For some time the passengers by the steamers of the Mediterranean and Orient Steam Navigation Company complained bitterly that things were stolen from their cabins, and that their luggage was frequently broken open and the contents abstracted. These robberies were conducted in such a mysterious way and the complaints became so numerous that the directors felt bound in their own interests to take some active measures to discover the thief or thieves. On the very face of it it seemed that several persons must be concerned, for only by a systematic and organized conspiracy could such a series of robberies have been perpetrated; and it was no less certain that the robbers were as bold as they were expert. The result was I was requested to take the matter up and endeavor to bring the rascals to justice.

In making my investigations into all the circumstances I found that generally the robberies had been committed between Bordeaux and Lisbon, both places being ports of call for the company's steamers. This fact was very significant, and seemed to me to point to Bordeaux or Lisbon as the headquarters of the operators. And there I pursued my investigation the more convinced was I that the very clever hand was at work, and that it might not be an easy task to detect them. For being expert thieves, and belonging—if I may express myself to the upper classes of thieves, they were not likely to be caught napping. By using the term "upper classes" in this sense, I refer, of course, to the swell mobsters, who have not only capital to work with, but conduct their operations on a thoroughly organized business system. Moreover, as such men are fully alive to the risks they run, they keep a very sharp lookout, and their spies are constantly on the alert.

In accordance with my instructions, I set sail in the company's steamer Orinoco, which left Gravesend on the 12th of June, and made a fine run down to Plymouth. I need scarcely say, perhaps, that I did not appear amongst the list of passengers in my own name, but for the reasons assumed by the company's officials, I had assumed the name of Charles Kirkwood Freeman. When we left Gravesend we had ninety-two first-class passengers and eighty-four second-class. During the run to Plymouth, as the weather was particularly fine and the sea as smooth as a pond, I had ample opportunity of taking stock of my fellow-voyagers. A good many of them were old Australian bushmen, returning to their homes after a visit to the mother country. The rest were of the usual miscellaneous and nondescript character peculiar to all passenger steamers trading to the colonies. There was the well-to-do horse-dealer, whose calling was indicated in his dress, his style, his movements, his talk, his voice, the cut of his hair, the trim of his beard, for it was not infrequently that who are constantly with horses develop certain horse characteristics by which they are easily distinguished. There were men leaving for the colonies to seek their fortunes, and women going out to join their husbands or lovers, and others going on speculation in the hope of making husbands. There were pretty girls and ugly girls, adventurous widows and selfish bachelors, who, without being in the least mild flirtation, were not to be entrapped by female charms. Altogether there was much to be seen and heard of human cargo from the passengers usually found on board of any ocean steamer of the same class. No doubt each had his or her little romance and the stories of their lives would probably have made absorbing reading—highly sensational in many cases, patently untrue in others. But a number of persons thus thrown promiscuously together for a brief period usually remain in each other's memory, except in certain cases, and an outsider, especially one to whom they are not known, is likely to be struck by the study of human nature is of fascinating interest, but in the present instance I was intent on trying to get a clew that would enable me to detect the perpetrator of the numerous robberies. Amongst all the passengers, however, there was not one who aroused my suspicion, but of course I was not different to the fact that the voyage was too young; we were all strangers to each other, and it was not until we were off the icy barriers which characterize a British gathering were broken down.

At Plymouth our number of saloon passengers was increased by twenty others, male and female. And amongst them was a clergyman, whose name I ascertained a little later was Horace Venables—the Rev. Horace Venables—who, as he himself informed me, was on his way to his health. He was a young man of about thirty-two, very gentlemanly in his manner, and of good address. And yet, somehow—I could scarcely explain why it was—I very soon began to think that the Rev. Horace Venables was not altogether what he represented himself to be. On the second day after leaving Plymouth a gale sprang up, and the reverend gentleman was, or pretended to be, pretentive in his manner, and his name was Horace Venables. As we neared Bordeaux, which was our next port of call, the weather became beautifully fine again, and all the passengers were up on deck. The Rev. Horace Venables, however, he appeared on deck, and more looking up at the sea and anything but an invalid. As we were likely to be detained for at least twelve hours, nearly a hundred of us went on shore, including Horace Venables; and I was also amongst the number. My fellow-travelers were of all ages and of all complexions, but I, knowing Bordeaux well, devoted my attention to the Rev. Venables, whose movements seemed to me to be strange, and who seemed to me to be a clergyman with what one might have expected from a clergyman who was desirous of making himself agreeable. He showed, for instance, a very pronounced desire to be left alone, and though he seemed to be a clergyman, he had been recently discovered, in some way, that he spoke French, and he seemed to me to be a clergyman who was desirous of making himself agreeable. He showed, for instance, a very pronounced desire to be left alone, and though he seemed to be a clergyman, he had been recently discovered, in some way, that he spoke French, and he seemed to me to be a clergyman who was desirous of making himself agreeable.

Two hours passed, and then the Rev. Horace Venables reappeared, looking as if by a very venerable and gentlemanly-looking man, whom I concluded was Monsieur Guignon. The two drove to a fashionable cafe in the heart of town, where they partook of a very substantial repast, which included two or three sorts of wine, to which the Rev. Venables did ample justice. The meal finished, they adjourned to the outside of the cafe, where they lit their cigars and ordered coffee and cognac. Whatever the man might be, I had seen sufficient to warrant me in saying that he was a lover of the flesh—of the flesh of Egypt, and seemed to have a very high appreciation of the good things of life.

Venables remained together for some hours longer. Then they parted, and the clergyman reappeared, looking as if by a very venerable and gentlemanly-looking man, whom I concluded was Monsieur Guignon. The two drove to a fashionable cafe in the heart of town, where they partook of a very substantial repast, which included two or three sorts of wine, to which the Rev. Venables did ample justice. The meal finished, they adjourned to the outside of the cafe, where they lit their cigars and ordered coffee and cognac. Whatever the man might be, I had seen sufficient to warrant me in saying that he was a lover of the flesh—of the flesh of Egypt, and seemed to have a very high appreciation of the good things of life.

A careful consideration of all the circumstances seemed to point to the robbers having been effected before the vessel reached Bordeaux, and now my suspicions were reinforced, not only by the fact that only revived but increased ten-fold. But of course suspicion was not proof, and the immediate difficulty was to get proof. It would have been a dangerous proceeding to have openly accused the suspected man. Moreover, there was another aspect to the case which I had not overlooked, and that was to determine under what jurisdiction the crime had been committed. It was a British ship sailing under a British flag, and yet the robbery might have taken place in French waters. But even then it was a nice point to determine whether the crime had been committed in British or French waters. The investigation was delicate one, and in the event of a false accusation the consequences might be serious. Therefore, to act with the greatest circumspection, and I took counsel with the captain, who further strengthened my suspicions by telling me that he had seen a man who had sailed with him before as a merchant. He confessed, however, that he could not be sure about it, nevertheless I thought it probable, and resolved on the course which I had already decided on. The suspected passenger had only booked as far as Lisbon, and so I decided to land there, too, and keep every precaution not to let this be known.

As soon as Lisbon was reached I hurried ashore, and placed myself in communication with the police authorities, but every one knows what a wretched, dilatory lot they are, and how they are enveloped and ensnared with red tape. All sorts of obstacles were thrown in my way, and the one question that was dinned into my ears was:

"Have you any proof, sir, or have you any proof?"

Of course I had no proof, but my suspicions were well-founded. The frowny Portuguese officials, however, simply shrugged their shoulders, smoked their cigarettes, and coolly told me they could not render me any assistance whatever. I therefore appealed to the custom-house authorities, and endeavored to get the fullest and most complete examination of the Rev. Horace Venables' luggage, in the hope that some of the stolen property might be discovered amongst it, whereby I should have very tangible evidence, and the police would then probably arrest him. A promise was given that the search should be made, and I was present, although the fact was unknown to Venables, when his baggage was subjected to the scrutiny of the custom-house people. The examination was conducted in a calm and philosophical manner, as if he might, for, in spite of a crucial examination, nothing was found. In his luggage of an incriminating character, and the police again shrugged their shoulders, and told me that they could not render me any assistance whatever, saying if they had been led by me they would have committed a grave error. I was then told that I was not going to get anything out of them, and I was determined to find out to my mind there was something very fishy about it. I was determined to find out to my mind there was something very fishy about it. I was determined to find out to my mind there was something very fishy about it.

The fancy for old jewelry is bringing to light some very curious and interesting facts. Silk stockings are to be found to match every color of satin, silk, and cloth. The daintiest are embroidered in silk and beads.

A novelty skirt-foundation has been received with marked favor. It is of linen, and may be found in all the best retail stores. It is said to be unsurpassed for its wearing qualities.

The tea-gown for very young women is fashioned in a new and interesting way. With this is worn a gimp of any material preferred. The sleeves are very full, and caught here and there with small rosettes.

The number of different sleeves worn this winter is marvelous. They are almost as varied as the fashions of the past. Yet, studied, they are discovered to be outgrowths of the Catherine de Medici or Valois sleeve, and have a long, narrow, and long-skirted bodice is favored. It is the same way with the trained skirt. It is no longer worn, but it is still a part of the wardrobe of the woman who is not yet half the woman in this country are sweeping the streets with their draperies.

was reconnoitering. Then he walked round the saloon, pausing now and again as if in the attitude of listening. I was all alert now, for I felt as if some important developments were about to take place. At last he disappeared in one of the entrances, and as I knew that his cabin was not there, I knew that he had been passing. I therefore moved stealthily forward until I commanded a view of the entrance. He had gone into one of the two cabins there. It was one of the best state-rooms, occupied by an Australian lady and her daughter, who were reputed to be very rich. I had been standing in the doorway, waiting for a chance to catch a glimpse of him; then I crept down the entrance and peeped in. Venables was then down on his knees engaged in searching the cabin box of one of the ladies, the lock having been unlocked by means of a skeleton key. So intent was he in his work that he did not notice me. Presently he found a small case—the lid of which he forced open with a tiny knife he carried in his coat pocket. The case contained jewelry which he immediately proceeded to manipulate, and abstracting it he stuffed it into his pocket.

At this interesting stage of the little drama I stepped softly into the room, laying my hand on the rascal's shoulder. I said:

"It seems to me, sir, that you are an intruder here, and engaged in an illegal occupation."

He sprang to his feet suddenly. He was a British man, and his face was filled with a scared look.

"What do you mean?" he asked hoarsely.

"I mean that you are a thief and an impostor."

"You lie," he stammered. "I am a gentleman and a clergyman, and will make you pay for this insult."

"The lie is on your side," I answered quietly. "for you are not a clergyman."

"And who are you?" he asked, his face growing hoarse, and, if possible, more deadly pale.

"I am a detective," I said, "especially commissioned to shadow you."

For a moment he seemed to reel, as if he were going to fall, but, with a quick, sudden movement, he turned and fled towards the door and tried to pass me. I was too sharp for him, however. Nevertheless, he struggled desperately, trying to get past me, and I followed him, pinning him against the edge of one of the bunks. The noise we made brought in one of the stewards, who had just entered the saloon, and I called upon him to help me.

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DOUGLASS'S

JANUARY SALE.

\$20,000 WORTH OF NEW LINENS AND DRESS GOODS

AT UNHEARD OF LOW PRICES.

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

YOU CAN BUY OF US:

THE LINENS.

6c Bleached Linen Crash at.....**.03**
12c Checked Glass Toweling at.....**.08**
33c German Table Linen at.....**.25**
45c Bleached Cream Table Damask at.....**.39**
65c Bleached Table Damask, 66-in. wide at.....**.50**
69c Fine Soft German Table Damask at.....**.50**
85c Extra Fine Irish Table Damask at.....**.69**

Fringe Table Cloths.

85c quality Fringe Cloths at.....**.69**
1.25 quality Fringe Cloth at.....**\$1.00**
\$2.00 quality Fringe Cloth at.....**\$1.50**

NAPKINS.

\$1.00 Soft-Bleach German Napkins, per dozen.....**.75**
\$1.25 Soft-Bleach German Napkins, per dozen, at.....**\$1.00**
\$1.50 Soft-Bleach Irish Napkins, per dozen, at.....**\$1.19**
\$2.00 Extra Fine Napkins, per dozen, at.....**\$1.69**
\$3.00 Extra Fine, Extra Handsome, per dozen, at.....**\$2.00**
We guarantee every item to prove their value on examination.

BOSTON DRY GOODS CO.,
26 and 28 West Washington St.

READING FOR SUNDAY.

The Mystery of Pain.
Behind the clouds that hide the fair blue sky.
We must seek for the reason why
For all our suffering and pain,
Through woe or ill, without a doubt or sigh
We must accept as good for us and best,
For all our suffering and pain,
Our love and faith, but He is ever nigh!

Oh, help us, God! be with us through the day,
And all the long, dark night! We have no fear,
Behind the clouds that hide the fair blue sky.
We must seek for the reason why
For all our suffering and pain,
Through woe or ill, without a doubt or sigh
We must accept as good for us and best,
For all our suffering and pain,
Our love and faith, but He is ever nigh!

International Sunday-School Lesson for Jan. 24, 1922.
HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER AND DELIVERANCE.
(Leviticus xlviii, 14-21, 23-38.)
Golden Text: Leviticus xlviii, 14-21.

Monday.....Leviticus xlviii, 14-20.
Tuesday.....Leviticus xlviii, 21, 23-38.
Wednesday.....Leviticus xlviii, 14-21.
Thursday.....Leviticus xlviii, 14-21.
Friday.....Leviticus xlviii, 14-21.
Saturday.....Leviticus xlviii, 14-21.
Sunday.....Leviticus xlviii, 14-21.

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON.
The Independent.

As soon as Hezekiah heard bad news he went to the Lord with it. That is the best of all examples. Trouble brings people to God. If one will not go to God at other times he must be far gone in impiety if he does not think of his heavenly Father in sorrow. Better than never.

But Hezekiah could consistently go to God then, for he had all his life set his heart to seek his God. It is full of comfort to go to God in trial if one has found God good and faithfully in his joys.

People might have said to Hezekiah: "What can our God do to help you against this great host?" That is just what Rabbah said to him. But prayer and faith sought God, and God found a way.

We notice the peculiar faith of Hezekiah that he believed in the power of prayer. He believed in the power of prayer. He believed in the power of prayer. He believed in the power of prayer.

The world says, "Come to me, and I will help you." The world says, "Come to me, and I will help you." The world says, "Come to me, and I will help you." The world says, "Come to me, and I will help you."

Unbelief does nothing but darken and destroy. It makes the world a morass, where no divine footsteps are heard, where no angels ascend and descend, where no heaven or hell exists, where no life or death is possible. It is a world of darkness and despair.

There was no one to help. Egypt was powerless. Submission seemed the only course, which meant destruction. But God had his unexpected means of deliverance. No army could stand against pestilence.

No doubt this pestilence came by natural causes, just as all plagues, and cholera, and yellow fever, and typhoid fever, do now. Had sanitary precautions been taken the plague would not have occurred. But God used His own natural laws, which punish sin, to bring about His purpose.

If God could heal Hezekiah, He could heal the world. He could heal the world. He could heal the world. He could heal the world. He could heal the world.

Hezekiah considered the reproach of God as well as the loss of his life. He considered the reproach of God as well as the loss of his life. He considered the reproach of God as well as the loss of his life. He considered the reproach of God as well as the loss of his life.

It is not called faith, but faith it was that Hezekiah exercised toward God. He trusted God against all odds. He trusted God against all odds. He trusted God against all odds. He trusted God against all odds.

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COTTONS.

Never were such Bargains laid down in Indianapolis. All-Linen Huck Towels, good standard size, a wonder at.....6 for 50c
All-Linen Damask Towels, knotted fringe, size 18 by 19 inches, match if you can at.....12c
25 All-Linen Huck and Damask Towels, "The early bird catches the worm," at 19c
1,000 Extra Large Damask Towels, extra fine knotted fringe, a great bargain, at 22c
33c quality Damask and Huck Towels, 10 styles, the biggest towel made, measuring 24 by 50 inches, at 25c

DOYLIES.

50c Bleached Doyleys, per dozen, at.....44c
85c Bleached Doyleys, per dozen, at.....69c
\$1 Bleached Doyleys, per dozen, at.....75c

Many housekeepers wait for this Annual Sale. The shrewder ones buy not only for present needs, but with one eye far into the future.

BOSTON DRY GOODS CO.,
26 and 28 West Washington St.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

It takes more than one hundred bees to weigh an ounce.

A stick of timber 30x20x12 feet was recently cut in Oregon and shipped to San Francisco.

A hole one one-thousandth of an inch in diameter can now be bored through a diamond, a sapphire or a ruby.

In Japan, it is said, there are apple trees growing four inches from the ground, which bear fruit freely about the size of currants.

A gold nugget weighing six and a half pounds was found in the Brandy Flat country, near Washington, Nev., last week.

Recently at Amador, Cal., a block of marble weighing one hundred tons was quarried and cut up into columns for a new hotel.

It is the Roumanian practice to plant a flower on the wall of every cottage in which a maiden lives. When she marries the flower is saved.

Europe signifies a country of white complexion; so named because the inhabitants of the continent are of a fairer complexion than those of Asia and Africa.

During a recent thunder-storm in Maine the skin of a boy who was struck by lightning turned a dark purple, and has remained so ever since.

A walnut tree six and one-half feet in diameter and eighty feet to the first branch was the unique exhibit of a Missouri town at the world's fair.

There are now twenty-one law firms in the United States composed of husbands and wives, and there are now two hundred American ladies who practice law in the courts or manage legal publications.

The great collection of postage stamps gathered by the British Museum, and presented to the British Museum, contains more than 200,000 specimens, and is valued at \$300,000.

Sheep have two teeth in the center of the jaw at one year, and add two each year until five years old, when they have a "full mouth" after that time the age cannot be told by the teeth.

Cats die at an elevation of thirteen thousand feet, even though they are reputed to have "nine lives" when on a level with the ocean. Dogs and cats can climb the greatest known natural elevations.

The civil-service records of the past three years show that out of the number of most applicants examined for government positions only a little over one-half passed, and from that score the designation of "pass" was given to only one-third of the successful candidates.

Yes, it is said, has been successfully tried for typhoid fever, and in cases where it has been used no relapse has followed. It is supposed that the yeast destroys the bacilli in the intestine and so prevents infection.

Not more than ninety years ago there existed in the south of Ireland abduction clubs, whose members were bound by oath to assist in carrying off such women as they desired. They were called "clubs" because they drew lots to determine to whom the woman abducted should fall.

Divers who helped to lay the foundation of the great Eads bridge, at St. Louis, found that while they were under a pressure of four "atmospheres," or sixty pounds to the square inch, they had a watch which was absolutely painful to the ear and also found it impossible to whistle.

There are in the world 147 educational institutions called "universities." The largest is in Paris, with 9,215 students. The next is in Vienna, with 6,226; the third in Berlin, with 5,527. The smallest is a branch of Durham University, Fort St. George, in Sierra Leone, with 12 students and five professors.

Spaniards, of which there are many breeds, are supposed to have first come from Spain, from which circumstance is derived their distinctive name. Charles I was an ardent admirer of a small variety of this animal, and from that arose the designation of "King Charles," known the world over as the King Charles.

The annual mortality of the entire human race amounts, roughly speaking, according to the statistics of the United States, to thirty-three millions of persons. This makes the average death per day over ninety-one thousand, being at the rate of 3,750 an hour, or sixty-two people every minute of the day and night the year round. A fourth of the race die before completing their eighth year, and one-half before the end of the

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